

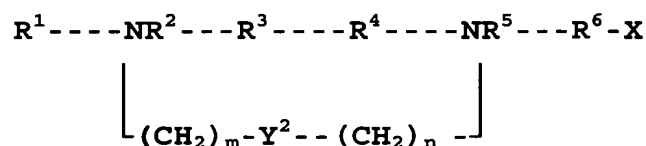
**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claims 1 through 11. (currently cancelled)

Claims 12 to 28. (previously cancelled)

30. (previously amended) A backbone cyclized peptide analog having IL-6 antagonist activity, having the general formula 3:



Formula No. 3

wherein m and n are 1 to 5;

X designates a terminal carboxy acid, amide or alcohol group;

R<sup>1</sup> is (D)Bip, Gln, Lys, Lys(ZCL) or Dab;

R<sup>2</sup> is (D)Lys, Gly, Ala or Trp

R<sup>3</sup> is Orn, 4PyrAla, (L) or (D)Dab, (D)Arg, Lys or Dpr;

R<sup>4</sup> is Lys, Lys(ZCL), Arg, Arg(Mtr) or (D)Glu;

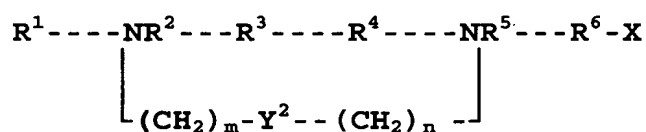
R<sup>5</sup> is Asn, Trp or (D)Ala;

R<sup>6</sup> is Arg, (p-NO<sub>2</sub>)Phe, (L) or (D)Trp, Gln, Abu or Glu; and

Y<sup>2</sup> is amide, thioether, thioester or disulfide.

Claims 31 through 37. (currently cancelled).

38. (previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a backbone cyclized IL-6 antagonist wherein the IL-6 antagonist has the general formula 3:



Formula No. 3

wherein m and n are 1 to 5;

X designates a terminal carboxy acid, amide or alcohol group;

R<sup>1</sup> is (D)Bip, Gln, Lys, Lys(ZCL) or Dab;

R<sup>2</sup> is (D)Lys, Gly, Ala or Trp

R<sup>3</sup> is Orn, 4PyrAla, (L) or (D)Dab, (D)Arg, Lys or Dpr;

R<sup>4</sup> is Lys, Lys(ZCL), Arg, Arg(Mtr) or (D)Glu;

R<sup>5</sup> is Asn, Trp or (D)Ala;

R<sup>6</sup> is Arg, (p-NO<sub>2</sub>)Phe, (L) or (D)Trp, Gln, Abu or Glu; and

Y<sup>2</sup> is amide, thioether, thioester or disulfide.

39. (currently cancelled)